

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

***✓ Please cancel claims 16 and 19.***

***Please replace claims 1, 11, 12, 17 and 20, and add new claims 21-22, as follows:***

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***✓*** (Amended) A step system comprising:

a length of a connecting material; and

*yp2* a plurality of steps attached to the connecting material, said steps being spaced apart by a distance sufficient to allow an adult to kneel between neighboring steps;

wherein each said step comprises a toehold portion and a base portion attached to the connecting material, said toehold portion defined by an upper generally planar support surface for engaging a portion of a user's foot, an opposing lower surface, and an edge surface extending therebetween;

wherein said upper generally planar support surface is disposed substantially perpendicular to said base portion.

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*yp3* 11. (Amended) A step system comprising:

a plurality of steps, said steps being disposed on a support structure at variable distances from one another as selectively determined by a user;

wherein each said step comprises a toehold portion and a base portion attached to the connecting material, said toehold portion defined by an upper generally planar support surface for engaging a portion of a user's foot, an opposing lower surface, and an edge surface extending therebetween;

wherein said upper generally planar support surface is disposed substantially  
perpendicular to said base portion.

12. (Amended) The step system of Claim 11, wherein the steps are spaced out of  
parallel.

17. (Amended) The step system of Claim 8, wherein said handle is formed as  
an opening in said toehold portion.

20. (Amended) The step system of Claim 11, wherein a handle is formed as an  
opening in said toehold portion.

21. (Newly added) The step system of Claim 11, further comprising a  
connecting material, wherein said plurality of steps are attached to the connecting material.--

22. (Newly added) The step system of Claim 11, wherein the support structure  
comprises a building roof.--